

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 ARA-10

MCE-00 /114 W

-----017582 271901Z /50

R 271550Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6044

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, UR, EG, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 1590, (B) MOSCOW 18374

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SUMMARY: SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS CONTINUES TO JUSTIFY
INDIRECTLY MOSCOW'S BUILDUP IN ETHIOPIA BY ATTACKING U.S.,
NATO AND "REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES" FOR SENDING ARMS TO
SOMALI. THIS REPORTAGE TO DATE HAS BEEN LARGELY DRAWN
FROM FOREIGN PRESS ACCOUNTS BUT IS INTERWOVEN WITH
SOVIET COMMENTARY AS WELL. SOVIET PRESS ALSO PICKED

UP CASTO'S JUSTIFICATION FOR CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE
IN AFRICA; ETHIOPIAN VERSION OF FIGHTING IN OGADEN
(WHILE IGNORING UPSWING IN ERITREAN FIGHTING);
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON DJIBOUTI; AND
ACTING ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S TRIP TO IRAQ.
END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO MIX REPORTAGE SUPPORTING
ETHIOPIAN CAUSE WITH INDIRECT JUSTIFICATION OF
MOSCOW'S HEAVY AND GROWING INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN
THROUGH ACCUSATIONS AGAINST "OUTSIDE" AID TO SOMALIA.
DEC. 24 PRAVDA CARRIES DEC. 23 TASS ARTICLE DATED
LAGOS REPORTING NIGERIAN NEWSPAPER "PUNCH'S" CHARGES
TO THIS EFFECT. TASS PIECE, ENTITLED "WHO ENFLAMES THE
CONFLICT IN THE AFRICAN HORN?" ALLEGES THAT:

-- INTENSIFICATION OF FIGHTING IN THE HORN IS "A
DIRECT RESULT OF INTERFERENCE BY NATO COUNTRIES" WHICH
ARE PUSHING SOMALIA INTO UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION AGAINST
ETHIOPIA;

-- U.S., ENGLAND, ITALY AND THE FRG AGREED IN
BRUSSELS "TO CREATE A SO-CALLED POOL" TO SUPPLY HEAVY
WEAPONS TO SOMALIA;

-- SAUDI ARABIA ACTS AS "INTERMEDIARY"
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AND IS ALSO PROVIDING AN "AIR CORRIDOR"
FOR MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO SOMALIA;

-- U.S. HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING COUNTRIES ADJACENT
TO THE HORN TO TRANSFER ARMS TO SOMALIA; THESE ARMS
WILL BE REPLACED BY NEW U.S. SHIPMENTS.

2. DEC. 23 TASS STORY QUOTES ETHIOPIAN PRESS AS
CHARGING THAT RELIANCE OF SOMALI LEADERS ON ASSISTANCE
FROM "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM AND REACTIONARY ARAB
REGIMES IS DRAWING SHARP CONDEMNATION FROM INDEPENDENT
AFRICA." DEC. 23 NOVOYE VREMYA ARTICLE "SHADOW OF
NEO-COLONIALISM OVER AFRICA", ACCUSES THE U.S. AND
NATO, IN LEAGUE WITH "REACTIONARY" ARAB REGIMES, OF
SEEKING TO SURROUND "PROGRESSIVE AFRICA" THROUGH
CREATION OF A "RED SEA SECURITY PACT." ARTICLE
REPORTS BAGHDAD NEWSPAPER "TARIQ ASH-SHAAB" AS
SPECIFICALLY ACCUSING WASHINGTON OF BUILDING UP A
PRO-NATO "RED SEA MILITARY BLOC" WHICH, ALONG WITH U.S.
BASES IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND DIEGO GARCIA, WILL ACT
"TO ENCIRCLE PROGRESSIVE AFRICA."

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-----017481 271900Z /50

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6046
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
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3. DEC. 25 SIGNED TASS ARTICLE DATELINED HAVANA
REPORTS FIDEL CASTRO TELLING THE CUBAN NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY THAT U.S. "HAS NO RIGHT" TO QUESTION THE
PRESENCE OF CUBAN SERVICEMEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES AT A
TIME WHEN THE U.S. HAS SOLDIERS ON CUBAN SOIL AND IN
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OTHER COUNTRIES. ARTICLE NOTES CASTRO STATEMENT THAT "AID TO INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION'S PRINCIPLED POLICY. . . AND THIS AID CANNOT BE THE SUBJECT OF BARGAINING WITH THE USA."

4. SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS IS IGNORING UPSWING IN FIGHTING IN ERITREA WHILE REPORTING ETHIOPIAN PRESS STATEMENTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN OGADEN WAR. DEC. 24 TASS ARTICLE REPORTS ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY AS STATING 3,000 SOMALIS HAVE BEEN KILLED SINCE EARLY DECEMBER.

5. DEC. 22 TASS ARTICLE DATED IN ADDIS ABABA AND CARRIED DEC. 23 PARAVDA REPORTS ETHIOPIAN MFA STATEMENT ON SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI. ARTICLE, ENTITLED "STATEMENT BY ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY", STATES THAT PRESIDENT OF DJIBOUTI, WHO IS AN ISSA, "PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF DJIBOUTI PARTY", WHOSE MEMBERSHIP IS PRIMARILY AFAR. ARTICLE CONTINUES "IN THIS CONNECTION THE PRIME MINISTER AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT, WHO ARE AFARS, RESIGNED."

6. ARTICLE CITES ETHIOPIAN STATEMENT AS HOLDING THAT "ETHIOPIA INVARIABLY PURSUES A COURSE OF SUPPORTING THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI AND INTENDS FURTHER TO FIRMLY ADHERE TO THIS POLICY"; "DJIBOUTI'S SOVEREIGNTY. . . CAN BE GUARANTEED ONLY ON CONDITION OF FULL NON-INTERFERENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE INTO THE REPUBLIC'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS"; DJIBOUTI'S FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE "CAN BE ASSURED ONLY BY FULL-FLEDGED PARTICIPATION" OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BOTH AFFARS AND ISSAS "IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE"; AND THAT "THE PRESENT AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI . . . IS A RESULT OF INCENDIARY ACTIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA. THIS ALSO "FACILITATES A FURTHER AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE HORN OF AFRICA".

7. BRIEF DEC. 22 TASS STORY REPORTS VISIT TO IRAQ OF MEMBER OF ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, M. DESTA. ARTICLE STATES DESTA "DISCUSSED SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA REGION" WITH IRAQI VICE PRESIDENT MAARUF AND ALSO MET WITH SECRETARY GENERAL OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL PATRIOTIC FRONT HADDAD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW18550
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TRIPOLI 1590, 77 MOSCOW 18374
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 127636
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS ON HORN DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINR, MOPS, ET, EG, UR, FT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/675d0efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009